

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Original) A knife sharpening apparatus having two sharpening rods pivot mounted at one end and guided in curved guides at the other end and loaded toward each other by springs, said sharpening rods crossing in a knife insertion opening so that upon pressure on the crossing sharpening rods by the knife inserted into the knife insertion opening, the sharpening rods are spread apart against the force of the springs, characterized in that the sharpening rods (11, 12) are disposed and mounted in a housing (1) whose front wall (6) and back wall (4) are provided, for forming the knife insertion opening (7), with mutually parallel slots (8, 9) which are open at one end and closed at the other end.

2. (Original) The knife sharpening apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the housing (1) has a length (l) and a width (b) of 5 to 10 cm and a thickness (d) of 1 to 3 cm.

3. (Currently amended) The knife sharpening apparatus according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that the housing (1) is divided between the front wall (6) and the back wall (4).

4. (Original) The knife sharpening apparatus according to claim 3, characterized in that the dividing joint (22) extends plane-parallel to the front wall (6) and the back wall (4).

5. (Currently amended) The knife sharpening apparatus

according to ~~any of the above claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the sharpening rods (11, 12) are mounted both on the front wall (6) and on the back wall (4).

6. (Original) The knife sharpening apparatus according to claim 5, characterized in that for mounting the sharpening rods (11, 12), a pivot pin (32, 33) is provided on the sharpening rods (11, 12) in each case on the front and back or on the front wall (6) and the back wall (4) to rotatably engage a recess (34, 35) in the front wall (6) and the back wall (4) or in the sharpening rods (11, 12).

7. (Original) The knife sharpening apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the curved guides for guiding the sharpening rods (11, 12) are formed by recesses (15, 16; 17, 18) in the front wall (6) and the back wall (4) which are engaged by guiding pins (31, 40) provided on the sharpening rods (11, 12) on the front and back.

8. (Currently amended) The knife sharpening apparatus according to ~~any of the above claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the springs (13, 14) are formed by wires which at one end are fastened to the back wall (4) and at the other end attack the sharpening rods (11, 12) on the side facing away from the knife insertion opening (7).

9. (Original) The knife sharpening apparatus according to claim 8, characterized in that for fastening each spring (13, 14), the back wall (4) has provided therein a groove (36, 37) in which one end of the spring (13, 14) is disposed and which is adapted to be sealed by a projection (38, 39) on the front wall (6).

10. (Currently amended) The knife sharpening apparatus according to ~~any of the above claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the area of the sharpening rods (11, 12) is separated

from the rest of the internal space of the housing (1) by a dividing wall (41, 41', 42, 42') which is provided on the front wall (6) and/or the back wall (4).

11. (Currently amended) The knife sharpening apparatus according to ~~any of the above claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that for connecting the front wall (6) with the back wall (4), the front wall (6) and/or the back wall (4) have provided thereon sleeve-shaped attachments (47, 48) into which pins (49, 50) on the back wall (4) and/or the front wall (6) are adapted to be inserted.

12. (Currently amended) The knife sharpening apparatus according to ~~any of the above claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that a stand (2) is linked to the side of the housing (1) facing away from the knife insertion opening (7).

13. (Original) The knife sharpening apparatus according to claim 12, characterized in that the stand (2) is of plate-shaped form and is adapted to be slid onto the front wall (6).

14. (Currently amended) The knife sharpening apparatus according to ~~claims 12 and~~ claim 13, characterized in that the stand (2), for being linked to the housing (1), has two pins (54) which engage longitudinal grooves (55, 56) on one and the other narrow side of the housing (1).

15. (Original) The knife sharpening apparatus according to claim 14, characterized in that the longitudinal grooves (55, 56) are provided in the side wall (23, 24) of the front housing member (5).

16. (Currently amended) The knife sharpening apparatus according to ~~any of claims 12 to 15~~ claim 12, characterized in that for fixing the housing (1) in the folded out position at an angle (α) between the housing (1) and the stand (2) of less

than 90°, a stop is provided on the housing (1) and/or the stand (2).

17. (Original) The knife sharpening apparatus according to claim 16, characterized in that the stand (2), for forming the stop, has side walls (52, 53) on which the side walls (35, 36) of the back housing member (3) are supported in the folded out position of the stand (2).

18. (Original) The knife sharpening apparatus according to claim 17, characterized in that the side walls (23, 24) of the front housing member (5) extend on the inner side of the side walls (52, 53) of the stand (2).

19. (Currently amended) The knife sharpening apparatus according to ~~any of claims 12 to 18~~claim 14, characterized in that the stand (2) is provided on its side facing away from the pin (54) with an end wall (57) which, in the folded in position of the stand (2) slid onto the housing (1), engages over the end wall of the housing (1) facing away from the knife insertion opening (7).

20. (Currently amended) The knife sharpening apparatus according to ~~any of claims 12 to 18~~claim 12, characterized in that the front wall has on the side facing the slot (8) a projection (58) which engages over the adjacent edge (61) of the stand (2) in the folded in position slid onto the housing (1).